6th November 1947]

Claim for damage done to "Congress House."

* 113 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received a claim from the President, Tamilnad Congress Committee, for Rs. 80,300 in respect of damage done to the "Congress House," while the premises were under Police custody during 1942 to 1945 ;

(*b*) whether the Government disallowed the whole or part of the claim ; if in part what part ; and

(*c*) for what reason?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The Government recognized no legal liability to pay the claim. However they sanctioned an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 5,000. The Tamilnad Congress Committee has now declined to accept the amount and has asked for a reconsideration of the matter."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, which particular Minister is responsible for the rejection of this claim of the Tamilnad Congress Committee? Is it the Cabinet as a whole? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is no question of any particular Minister, Sir. It is an order of the Government as a whole, because there is the joint responsibility."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Am I right that these claims were drawn up by the Hon. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam . . . "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not think you are right in putting this question. Do not try to distinguish between one Minister and the Government."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether these claims are drawn by persons who are since in the Cabinet? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Government have no information in the matter."

Certain particulars regarding detenus.

* 114 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of persons detained under the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947, until the 15th August 1947 ;

(*b*) the amount granted to them by way of family allowances until that date ;

(*c*) the names of persons to whom Rs. 100 or above per month were granted as allowances ;

(*d*) whether all the detenus were released on the eve of Independence Day ;